

Message Text

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ACTION SPM-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01 IO-14

ISO-00 AID-20 OIC-04 SP-03 COME-00 EB-11 SWF-02

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 HEW-08 SCI-06 EPA-04 CEA-02

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SUBJECT: WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE - COMMITTEE II - ENVIRONMENT

AUGUST 21

1. THE DISCUSSION IN COMMITTEE II FOLLOWED THE SAME LINES OF ARGUMENT AS PREVIOUS DAY. UKRAINIAN SSR, YUGOSLAVIA, ALBANIA, USSR, BYELORUSSIA, CUBA AND BULGARIA ALL SUGGESTED THAT SOCIALISM AND PLANNED ECONOMIES COULD CONTROL ANY PROBLEMS WHETHER THEY INVOLVE POLLUTION, ENVIRONMENT OR RESOURCE SHORTAGES.

THESE COUNTRIES FLATLY REJECTED THE IDEA OF LIMITING POPULATION AND SUGGESTED THE PROBLEM WAS A CAPITALIST PROBLEM WHERE COLONIALISTS AND NEOCOLONIALISTS EXPLOITED THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

THEY SUGGESTED THAT THE STRUCTURE OF THE COUNTRY PRODUCED THE PROBLEMS AND IN A PLANNED ECONOMY THE RATIONAL USE OF RESOURCES IS ACHIEVED. POPULATION GROWTH IS WRONGLY BLAMED FOR THE PROBLEMS WHICH IN TRUTH ARE CAUSED BY THE CAPITALIST STRUCTURE OF SOCIETY. ALL CLAIMED THERE ARE PLENTY OF RESOURCES AND WITH TECHNOLOGY AND RATIONAL PLANNING THERE WILL BE NO RESOURCE PROBLEMS. THEY ALSO ADVOCATED REDISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH.

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2. CANADA, U.S., NORWAY AND U.K. ALL STATED RESOURCES ARE LIMITED AND THE PROBLEM IS A VERY SERIOUS ONE. FIGURES IN DOCUMENT 60/5 WERE QUESTIONED AS BEING OPTIMISTIC.

3. BRAZIL, CHILE, IRAN, NETHERLANDS AND THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC ALL SUBMITTED THAT THE POPULATION PROBLEM WAS NOT VERY SERIOUS BUT SHOULD BE STUDIED. MOST SUGGESTED TECHNOLOGY WOULD SOLVE EVERYTHING. THEY FELT THAT POPULATION GROWTH SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE SPECIFIC COUNTRY AND THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

4. INDIA WAS NOT AS OPTIMISTIC BUT DID FEEL THAT FOOD PRODUCTION COULD BE INCREASED GREATLY. MONGOLIA WAS CONCERNED ABOUT WORLDWIDE POLLUTANTS, ESPECIALLY RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AND HOW THEY COULD RUIN HEALTH AND LIFE. MORE ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THIS PROBLEM AND ITS EFFECT ON FUTURE GENERATIONS.

5. ECUADOR SUGGESTED THAT ADAPTATIONS OF OTHER ORGANISMS TO THE ENVIRONMENT COULD BE FASTER THAN MAN'S ABILITY TO ADAPT AND THAT WE MUST BE CONCERNED WITH PROTECTING THE ECOLOGY.

6. BANGLADESH AGAIN STATED THAT THEY WILL NEED MORE FOOD TO SUPPORT THEIR RAPIDLY GROWING POPULATION IN A RESOURCE LIMITED ENVIRONMENT. BARNES

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